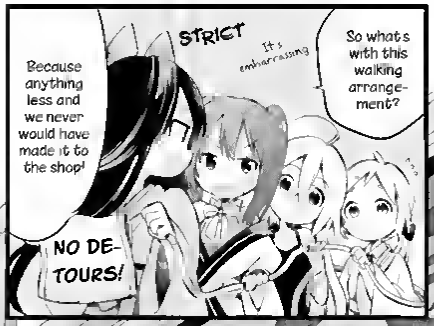
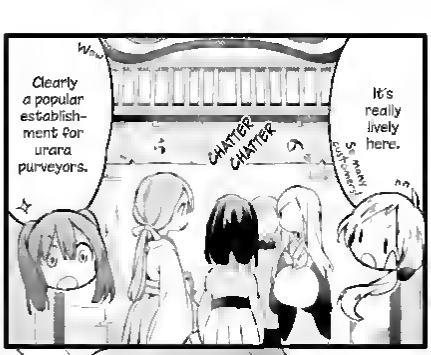
Um
It's supposed to be the biggest divination supplier in Labyrinth Town
Whatever divination supply you want, they have it.
Wow... That sounds cool!

We're here!
Sign: Benten Divination Supplies


So what's with this walking arrange-ment?
It's embarrassing
STRICT
Because anything less and we never would have made it to the shop!
NO DE-TOURS!

So this is the renowned Benten's Divination Supplies!
Is this shop that famous?


Clearly a popular establishment for urara purveyors.
CHATTER CHATTER
It's really lively here.
So many customers!

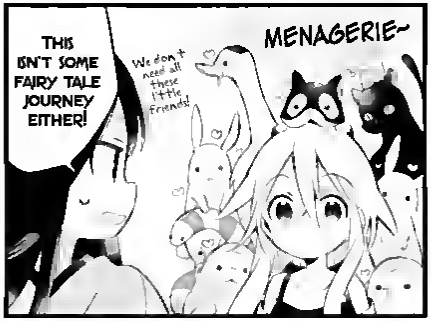
A FEW HOURS EARLIER
An errand to a divination supplier?
That's right.

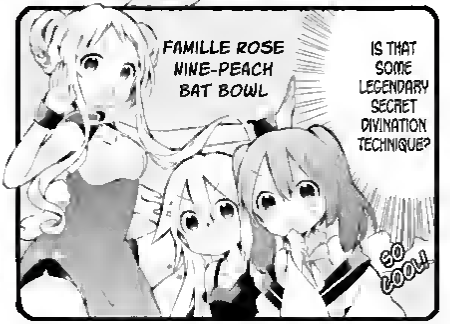
YAY!
AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE I WANNA DO SOME SHOPPING, TOO!
Absolutely not, Koume!

What kind of item?
EXCITED
I've suddenly become swamped with divination work,
so I'd like you to go pick up a certain item for me.

Come on, Kon, you're no fun!
hmph!
Also, Chiya!
We are here with a task on behalf of Natsume-ya.
This isn't some leisure outing.

IT'S CALLED A FAMILLE ROSE NINE-PEACH BAT BOWL!
It's a very auspicious item!
Actually, it's an imported item I've had my eyes on for quite some time.
I've always dreamed of divining with it!


THIS ISN'T SOME FAIRY TALE JOURNEY EITHER!
We don't need all these little friends!
MENAGERIE~


FAMILLE ROSE NINE-PEACH BAT BOWL
IS THAT SOME LEGENDARY SECRET DIVINATION TECHNIQUE?
SO COOL!

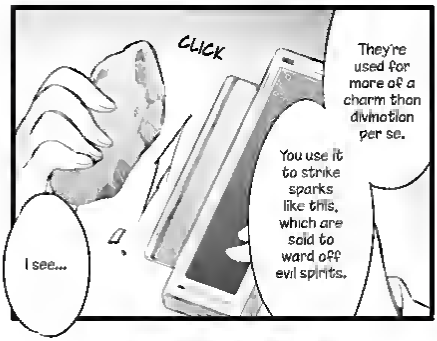
Excuse us...
Wow!
WHOA! THERE'S SO MANY WEIRD THINGS!
These are all divination tools?
But I can't even tell what they're for.
I bet Kon would know about this stuff.
Gone
Huh? Kon?
I'D HEARD THE RUMORS. BUT THEIR SELECTION IS INCREDIBLE!
SHOCK
SO MANY OF THESE THINGS I'VE ONLY SEEN IN BOOKS!
IT'S TRUE THAT NOTHING BEATS SEEING THEM IN PERSON!
Kon, I thought we weren't here for leisure?
GASP

!?
I am Benten, the owner of this store.
W-Were so sorry!
Now, what are you going to do about it?
and you little whelps just smashed a very rare and valuable eyeball crystal
Is the shop-keeper out?
...actually, theres another rumor about this place.
I heard this from the appren-tices at Tatsumi-ya.
WHISPER
It's about the shop-keeper
Do you think an apology will suffice?
You'll pay me back with your bodies, the old-fashioned way!
SMIRK
THEY SAY SHE'S A MASTERMIND WHO PRACTICALLY OWNS THE UMAMA OF LABYRINTH TOWN.
THAT SHE HAS CLOUT IN THE BLACK MARKET.
ALSO THAT SHE'S AN EXPERT GAMBLER, WHO IS WITHOUT EQUAL. ONCE THE DICE ARE IN HER HAND.
All right, you're up!
HERE YOU GO!
CAGE
AND WHY IS THAT?
She's known as the wily old tanuki of Tenth Dist-
WHO ARE YOU CALLING TANUKI, YOU LITTLE FOX PUP?
CRASH!!

Um...
I seem to have received different clothing than the others...
You'll be working the storefront, missy.
Hmm
It certainly becomes you.
I've never really worn Western clothing. I think Koume would be more suited...
Now hurry up and change into these!
I've mountains of work for you to be doing.
Yes, maam!
Hmph
You've got spunk, but be warned.
NAVY STYLE
If you don't like it, I have other options
COURTESAN STYLE
GLINT
Our collection of divination supplies consists of rare treasures from every era and corner of the world.
You'll learn a painful lesson indeed if you mishandle some of our curiosities.
I'd be careful where I put my fingers if I were...
Heh heh
Our divination supply store takes pride in its selection.
WHY DO YOU ONLY HAVE SUCH STRANGE OUTFITS?!
Fingers in my...?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH DIVINATION!
NINJA
...IT SEEMS I MAY HAVE FANNED THE FLAMES.
CURIOSTIES!
TRESURES!
EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD!
EAGER EAGER

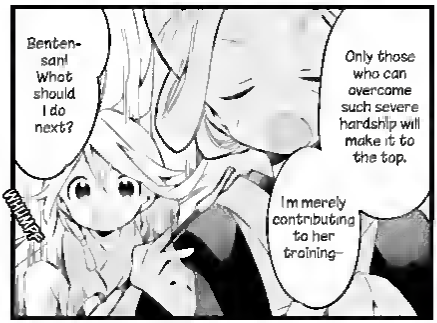
Look at these. I wonder what these rocks here are for.
Oh, those would be fire strikers.

THUM THUM THUM
My, you've hired quite the energetic young helper there.
So it seems.
But I'm worried for her, since you're such a ruthless boss, Benten-san.

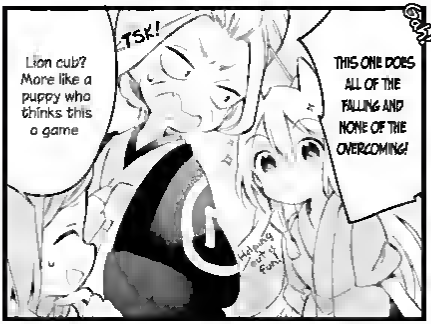

CLICK
They're used for more of a charm than divination per se.
You use it to strike sparks like this, which are said to ward off evil spirits.
I see...

ROAR!
Why, I'm hurt.
WHINE WHINE
They say the lion pushes its own cub into the valley to make it stronger.

Wow, you know so much for such a young employee!
Oh, not at all...
You'll definitely become an urora with prospects!


Only those who can overcome such severe hardship will make it to the top.
Benten-san! What should I do next?
WHIMPER
I'm merely contributing to her training—

bebbe bebbe
O-Of course these can be used as normal fire starters, but based on their ease of use in simple wording rituals against misfortune, especially before journeys or everyday outings, I would recommend...
Ehem!
This time we've sparked her off


Gah!
TSK!
Lion cub? More like a puppy who thinks this a game
THIS ONE DOES ALL OF THE FALLING AND NONE OF THE OVERCOMING!

Gaaah!
Everyone else is working so hard and doing so well..
I should contribute, too.

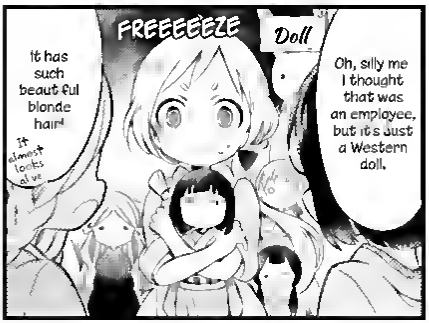
Look at Kon getting all the attention!
Is there anything I can do to stand out and help the shop, too?
Then, what about th-?

BUT NOT ONLY AM I BAD AT PHYSICAL LABOR, I'M ALSO SHY.
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY TALK WITH ALL THESE CUSTOMERS I'VE NEVER MET BEFORE...
SPINNING
I'M USELESS!

Hey, I know this one!
It's popular in the West, isn't it?
This will be perfect

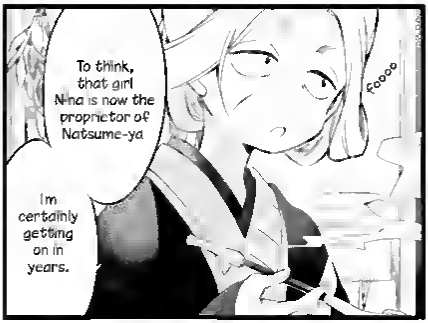
You're right This is getting me nowhere.
I'll try my best-
SNIFFLE
HAVE MORE CONFI-DENCE, NONO!
Um, excuse me!

Ahh
Ooh
Huh?


FREEEEEZE
Doll
It has such beautiful blonde hair!
It almost looks alive
Oh, silly me I thought that was an employee, but it's just a Western doll.

LOOM
HEEEAAAUGH!
CAN I HELP YOU?

I thought you'd like it
So she had a storeroom all the way in the back of the shop
There are tons of neat things in here. Like this, look!
Kon!
sneak
What are you doing, wearing those?
GRAB
I-IS THIS THE GENUINE SWORD OF SENDAI TAKAO?! THE LEGENDARY ITEM THAT HAS BEEN EXCLUSIVELY OWNED BY FIRST-RANK URA FOR GENERATIONS!
You mean it's that valuable?
W-Wait!
Never mind, just come quickly!
Before Benten-san sees us!
From what I can see, every divination tool in here
Not just this!
is beyond what your average urara will ever obtain.
Koume! We brought Kon.
Great, thanks-
CLUTCH
Um, Koume, what did you put that on for?
Tres surrealiste
YOU ALL LOOK SUSPICIOUS BUT ONE OF YOU TAKES THE CAKE.

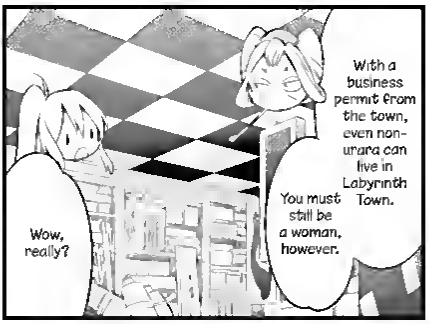

To think, that girl Nina is now the proprietor of Natsume-ya
Foooo
I'm certainly getting on in years.

YOU FOOL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SHIRKING YOUR WORK HERE?!
Busted!
Oh, Benten-san!
SLAM

You know Nina-sense?
As well as your four, naturally. You're Natsume-ya's new apprentices, aren't you?

Hey, if you have all these divination tools,
No, I'm merely a merchant.
does that mean you're an urara too?

Oh!
SLIP
Don't underestimate my information network. Here.
You came today for this, didn't you?


With a business permit from the town, even non-urara can live in Labyrinth Town.
You must still be a woman, however.
Wow, really?

Hmm
ADMITTEDLY I WAS UNAWARE THAT NINA'S STUDENTS WERE SO SCATTER-BRAINED.
We forgot about that...
Nina-san's not perfect either, I guess.

Urara from all over town have gathered at this shop for generations,
and I've always been here to witness them.
You could say this town and its urara give me purpose.

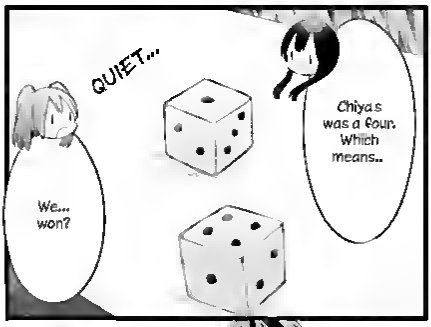
Y-YOU WICKED TANUKI!
CACKLE
If you don't like any of those options, you're out of luck!
FWIP
Not so fast!
Then we'd better get this back to Nma-sensei as soon as possible!
Oh?
What, do you want to tussle?
SWISH
Chiya?
WHAT ?!
A-A month?!
You're not leaving until you've worked off that crystal.
Let me see. A month should cover the cost.
Benten-san, I'm sorry,
but our training is important to us.
We have to return to Natsume-ya.
Not my problem. You're always welcome to pay me back in coin
Nghh
YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO US! WE HAVE TRAINING-
I SEE SHE HASN'T CHANGED.
If I hadn't sent them on that errand...
Oh, it's all my fault.
Probably
Or else Nma-sensei will cry...
NOOOOOO!
Let me see...
Or maybe I'll take your eye to replace the crystal
It's a rare scarlet color that I'm sure will fetch a pretty price.

H-HANG ON, CHIYA, YOU CAN'T!
SHE'S GONNA MAKE YOU LOSE!
All right! I'll do it!
Dice?
Very well, I'll offer you a chance.
...I like the look in your eyes.
Why?
Remember what Kon said? She's an unparalleled gambler!
But you never know unless you try
We'll be as good as maids if you lose!
The rules are simple. We roll the dice, and whoever rolls higher wins.
If you win, I'll forget about the crystal.
But if I win, you all owe me three months labor.
Even for urara, it's not necessarily easy to see the future.
Right now, I have no idea if I'll win or lose.
But you know, Benten-san.
I'm merely a merchant,
and I can't see the future like you urara.
But that uncertainty is what makes the game interesting.
We each bet our futures.
Well? Up for the challenge?
GRIN
That's why I train and keep going in the face of a future I can't yet see.
So I have no choice but to win
so we can return to Natsume-ya!

Thanks, Benten-san!
See you again!

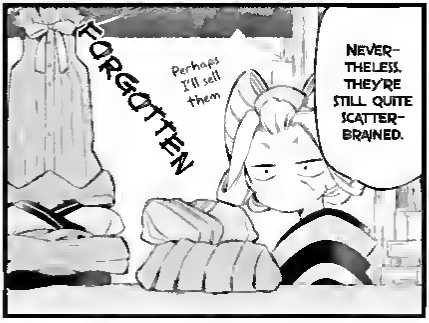
CLATTER
Let the game...
begin!

...Hmph.
I wouldn't have let them off so easily if they were the kind of apprentices who could be intimidated into abandoning their training, or who'd run from a challenge
CLICK


QUIET...
We... won?
Chiya's was a four. Which means...

It seems there's more to these girls than meets the eye.
I'm rather interested in what will become of them.

YAY!
Way to go, Chiya!
YES!
BANG


FORGOTTEN
Perhaps I'll sell them
NEVERTHELESS, THEY'RE STILL QUITE SCATTERBRAINED.

You nearly condemned yourselves for life, there.
Phew...